

Cell Phone: text messaging prevalent in classrooms

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a no cell phone policy for his classes.

"I've lightened up a bit on my punishment for cell phone usage during my classes. I used to tell the offending party to leave the class. They were welcomed back the next class meeting, but if their cell phone went off again, I might have had to deal with it in another, even harsher way," stated Bell.

According to Bell, his initial policy worked very well, as he never had repeat occurrences of cell phone usage from anyone who had been asked to leave class for not abiding by the policy.

"I probably came off as an ogre to the rest of the class. Now I do something a bit more subtle. I make fun of the situation," said Bell.

In a recent occurrence when a student's cell phone began ringing

during class, Bell "made fun of the situation" by singing along with the lyrics of the student's ringtone.

"Can you imagine how funny that was? The professor doing an over the top version of those insipid lyrics. But no one else would want to suffer my

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mocking song," added Bell.

Carole Bucy, professor of history, also has a no cell phone policy for her classes.

Although she said she "gets pretty upset if a phone is pulled out (during class)," Bucy said she believes that the biggest problem with cell phones at

Vol State is not in the classroom.

"I think the cell phone has broken down the sense of community that once existed at Volunteer State," stated Bucy.

"When I first started teaching at Vol State 11 years ago, we had a student

soon as class is over, they're checking their phones for messages and missed calls.

"Students don't really have to make new friends because they can maintain a close relationship with their friends who may be hundreds of miles away," said Bucy.

"People don't talk with each other after class. They don't have to meet the people sitting around them. They don't need to make new friends," Bucy said.

"Using a cell phone in class is rude," concluded Bell. "People have forgotten proper etiquette in this regard. Telephones used to be in a booth for a two-fold reason: for the user's privacy and [to] keep others from having to listen to their conversation."

Cell phones may have changed the way we communicate, but manners and respect should not be thrown to the curb because we have more technology," said Bell.

- Keith Bell

Associate Professor of Geography

body similar to the one we have today (minus the cell phones). There was a real sense of community. Sooner or later, people met new folks. Otherwise, they would have been really lonely," Bucy said.

Bucy said that practically every student has a cell phone now and as

Brandon happy to be new dean

By WILL GREGORY
Staff Writer

Eivis Brandon has been hired as the new dean of Allied Health at Volunteer State Community College. He officially started work in the position March 1.

Brandon has worked at Vol State for six years. He was previously the academic coordinator of clinical education for the physical therapist assistant program.

Brandon explained that his major role as dean would be "to support the Allied Health division, enabling it to function properly, which would enable it to support Vol State."

He stated that as dean he would identify needs for the division and expand the division by increasing the number of offerings in Allied Health.

Brandon also stated that he would identify the needs of the health care community in this area. He explained that would he talk to hospitals and other medical facilities in this area to determine what programs are needed in the area.

Brandon also mentioned that he would like to improve continuing education in the division and see if it

could be expanded as well.

"I'd like to see Vol State be recognized as a top provider of continuing education in this area," Brandon said.

Brandon stated that he felt he was gifted in administration and leadership, and that he felt this position would "give me an opportunity to use my talents as an administrator."

Before coming to Vol State, Brandon worked at an outpatient clinic in Hendersonville and had worked as a physical therapy assistant at Baptist Sports Medical Center.

Dennis Dipert, program director and associate professor of physical therapist assistant program, stated that he looked forward to having Brandon as dean and was confident in his abilities.

"He will look at the field in this community and what their needs are," Dipert said. "I've seen him take on a number of difficult tasks in the program. He comes from the trenches and knows what it's like to be a member of the faculty."

The previous dean of Allied Health was Ron Coleman. Dipert stated that Coleman had been at Vol State since its inception.

Campus Briefs

"Water"- a film by Deepa Mehta, will be shown Wednesday, March 21, in the Rochelle Center. It will begin at 2:30 p.m.

The Inagural Ball will take place Friday, March 23, from 6-9 p.m. in the Rochelle Center

The ThinkFast competition is Wednesday, March 28 in the cafeteria. It will begin at 12:15 p.m.

Parent-Child Date Night will be March 30. It will begin at 6 and run through 8 p.m. in the cafeteria. Vol State students only please.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 31. It begins at 11 a.m. and lasts until 1 p.m. in the commons area.

The deadline to apply for the Dr. Monique Robinson-Wright Brighter Future Scholarship is April 15. It is a \$3,000 scholarship that will be awarded to a student who is attending Vol State on a full-time basis.

The deadline for the Patty Powell Reflection of Light Scholarship is also April 15. The recipient must be a full time student and already have completed 12 hours. Also, the student must be taking or have taken a leadership course at Vol State.